
Pickett & Eckel Slide Rule Timeline

Bruce Reichelt



Left, John Pickett; right, Bruce Reichelt

1941/1942 Roswell (Ross) Colvert Pickett gets the calculation idea. He is currently in the printing business.

1943 Pickett Company founded.

1943 Ross prepares to make a paper slide rule.

1943 Ross and Art Eckel join up. Name changed to Pickett & Eckel.

1944 First Pickett slide rules sold. These were printed on paper card stock.¹ Approximately 50,000 made; this was designated Model 1.

1946 The first magnesium slide rules made (also designated Model 1, the Deci-Point).

1946 Also in 1946, Ross Pickett turns management over to Mr. Florian, and continues in his printing business. Ross moves to California, and there are two companies, one in Chicago, one in California.

June 1948–June 1949 Ross's son John Pickett attends University of Redlands, receives BS engineering.

1948–1949 Art Eckel leaves Pickett & Eckel.

June 1949–June 1950 John Pickett attends University of Southern California; receives MS Business Administration.

Eckel name is dropped from the slide rules (possibly due to K&E lawsuit; reportedly, P&E was found to be too close to K&E). Company name remains Pickett & Eckel.

1951–1967 John Pickett joins Pickett Marketing Department.

Early 1950's Pickett contracts with Cal-Pan Co. to make aluminum slide rules in California (Alhambra).

1953–1954 Cal-Pan bought out.

1953–54 John founds Pacific Leather Works to make slide rule cases.

1957 John Pickett becomes President of Pickett.

October 20, 1963 Name of company still Pickett & Eckel Inc.

1964 Pickett moves to Santa Barbara January.

1965 Ross Pickett dies.

1964 Pickett family sells Business to Times Mirror Co. Sale reported price approximately \$1.5 million September-December.

1964 Name changes to Pickett Industries.

1967 John Pickett Leaves Company.

October/November 1974 Pickett Industries moves to Nogales, Mexico.

1975 Pickett Industries combined into Chartpack/Pickett under Chartpack Management.

1975–1979 Slide rule manufacturing ends.

1979 Pickett Industries moves to Tuscon from Nogales, Mexico.

1985 Pickett Industries sold to Chartpack.

1998 Manufacturing combined with Chartpack in Leeds, Massachusetts.

1999 Pickett Industries division still manufactures templates.

¹If a reader has one of these in his collection, please contact *The JOS*. We would like to do an article on it.